CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method comprising:

obtaining performance data on multiple programs that run on at least one system, the performance data including a first system profile for each program, the performance data obtained from a tool; and

automatically sorting the performance data for each profile to allow for comparison between profiles.

2.   The method of claim 1 further comprising:

obtaining performance data on multiple programs that run on a second system, the performance data including a second system profile for each program obtained from the tool; and

automatically sorting the performance data for each profile to allow for comparison between profiles.

3.   The method of claim 2 further comprising comparing the performance data of the first system with the second system.

4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising:

obtaining additional performance data for both systems using the tool;

automatically sorting the additional performance data of both systems; and

comparing the additional performance data of the first system with the second system.

5.   The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining performance data on a number of programs that run on a system comprises:

collecting data on multiple programs run on a system during a sampling period based on performance counters; and

transferring the data to a file.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein one performance counter is clockticks.

7.   The method of claim 5 wherein one performance counter is retired instructions.

8.   The method of claim 5 wherein one performance counter is cache misses.

9.   The method of claim 1 wherein automatically sorting and prioritizing the performance data for each profile to allow for comparison between profiles comprises:

dividing an address range of each program into a number of bins; and

listing the performance data for each bin according to specified criteria.

10.   The method of claim 9 wherein the specified criteria is time-based.

11.   The method of claim 1 wherein automatically sorting the performance data for each profile to allow for comparison between profiles comprises:

dividing each profile for each program into a number of modules and functions; and

listing the performance data for each module and each function.

12.   The method of claim 1 further comprising transferring the sorted data onto a file.

13.   The method of claim 1 further comprising displaying the sorted information on a display.

14.   The method of claim 1 wherein the performance data profiles include central processing unit (CPU) event measurements.

15.   The method of claim 1 wherein the system is a processor.

16.   A machine-readable storage medium tangibly embodying a sequence of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method, the method comprising:

obtaining performance data on multiple programs that run on a system, the performance data including a first system profile for each program obtained from a tool; and

automatically sorting the performance data for each profile to allow for comparison between profiles.

17.   The machine-readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the performance data profiles include central processing unit (CPU) event measurements.

18.   The machine-readable storage medium of claim 16 wherein the system is a processor.

19.   A system comprising:

a tool to obtain performance data on multiple programs that run on at least one system, the performance data including a profile for each program obtained from a tool; and

a sorter to automatically sort the performance data for each profile to allow for comparison between profiles.

20.   The system of claim 19 further comprising a comparator to compare the profiles.

21.   The system of claim 19 further comprising a display to display the sorted information.

22.   The system of claim 19 wherein the performance data profiles includes central processing unit (CPU) event measurements.

23.   The system of claim 22 wherein the system is a processor.

24.   The system of claim 19 wherein the tool obtains performance data collected according to performance counters.

25.   The system of claim 24 wherein one performance counter is clockticks.

26.   The system of claim 24 wherein one performance counter is retired instructions.

27.   The system of claim 24 wherein one performance counter is cache misses.